



Occupy Wall Street Goes On, Page 3

A child walking on the streets of Waterbury, Connecticut. Many children there were affected by the construction jobs that their parents lost.

GROWING POVERTY

HARDER TO IGNORE AT HOME

By Kid Reporter JANAYA WILDER, age 12 and IndyKids Staff

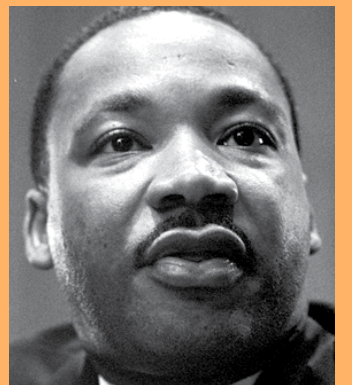
What Does it Mean to Live in Poverty in the United States?

Poverty doesn't necessarily mean living on the street. A person experiencing poverty doesn't have a socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. Someone in absolute poverty is not able to meet their basic needs: such as clothes, a home, food, education or medical care. In 2011, the government defined poverty as a family of four living on less than \$22,350 a year.

Millions of American families are going hungry and homeless, without medical care and warm clothes. Poverty is on the rise and spreading quickly throughout all 50 states. Sheldon Danziger, a University of Michigan professor who specializes

in poverty studies, told the *Associated Press*, "If Congress and the states make further cuts [to government programs], we can expect the number of poor and low-income families to rise for the next several years."

New York City, home to many of the world's biggest banks and corporations, is also home to 1.5 million people in poverty and an organization called City Harvest. They rescue extra food from restaurants, and, using 18 trucks and three bicycles, provide food to over 300,000 hungry New Yorkers each week.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Advocate for the Poor

As a leader and activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped to organize the Poor People's Campaign in 1968 to address economic injustice in the United States, and to figure out ways to help poor people of all races get out of poverty. A home and a job with a decent wage were things that he felt all people deserved.

Take Action Against Poverty!

- Ask your neighborhood restaurants to donate left-over food to homeless shelters or other organizations, like your local food bank, that fight hunger and poverty.
- Send letters to politicians, demanding more funding for the poor. Make a petition and collect signatures to include with your letter.
- Organize a literature table at school to inform other kids about poverty.
- Read the *IndyKids* article, "Helping Homeless Kids in Lexington, Kentucky" (September, 2011) for one idea to help homeless kids.
- Learn more about the conditions of all people in your community.



1/2

Almost half of all Americans are considered to be in poverty or low-income.

1/3

One in every three people in poverty are children under the age of 18.



GEORGES MALAIKA FOUNDATION

Meet... Mujinga from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Name: Mujinga Louise

Age: 7

Hometown: Lubumbashi (second largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Languages spoken: Swahili and Bemba

Hobbies: Playing different types of games with friends

What do you want to be when you grow up? A mother first and also a professor

What would you like the kids in the United States to know about Congolese culture? When people meet, they tenderly embrace and shake hands. At dinnertime, we all share a meal from the same plate.



WWW.CIA.GOV

The Democratic Republic of the Congo at a Glance

Capital City: Kinshasa

Government: Republic, with Joseph Kabila as President and Adolphe Muzito as Prime Minister

Location: Central Africa, east of the Republic of the Congo, which is a different country

Geography: The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second-largest country in Africa. The country holds two-thirds of the Congo rainforest, the second-largest rainforest in the world.

Population: Estimated 72 million

Religions: Roman Catholic 50%; Protestant 20%; Muslim 10%; Kimbanguist, 10%; Other, including native beliefs 10%

Languages: French is the official language. Major languages are Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili and Tshiluba.

Learn a little SWAHILI

Abari: How are you?

Asante: Thank you

Uhuru: Peace/Freedom

Rafiki: Friend

Profile and vocabulary courtesy of Noella Coursaris Musunka & Chloe Manchester from Georges Malaika Foundation

\$6 billion

That's how much the United States plans to spend on its embassy in Iraq in 2012.

Source: AFP

nation&world

One Year Later: Military Still in Charge in Egypt

By TOM ENGLISH

A year after a people's revolution in Egypt ousted a dictator, Egyptians still struggle to free themselves from military rule. Early in 2011, protesters demanded the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, more freedom and a non-military government. Under pressure from widespread demonstrations and strikes, Mubarak left office in February 2011 and gave power to a military junta (pronounced "hoonta"), or group of military officers.

Elections for parliament began on November 28, 2011, and took place over six weeks to determine Egypt's new non-military leaders. However, many in Egypt are afraid that the elections won't be fair and that the military will stay in power for a long time.

After the first round of elections, soldiers beat up judges and other people at vote-counting centers. On



FLICKR/OKHA

The United States gives \$1.3 billion in aid to Egypt's military every year.

December 16, nine people were killed and 350 were injured when soldiers tried to break up an anti-military protest outside the Parliament building in Cairo, the Egyptian capital. Soldiers threw rocks, bottles and furniture on the protesters from the rooftops.

Late in December, for days, soldiers beat protesters including women. Soldiers were shown on

video dragging a woman through the street by her hair with her clothing partially ripped off. Islama Thabet, an Egyptian protester, said on *Democracy Now!*, "They [the military council] have no problem doing that, so long as they get to stay in power and cover up their crimes, and the regime remains in place, protecting Mubarak and the previous regime, which has still not fallen."

Will the U.S. Postal Service Survive?

By TOM ENGLISH

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” appears on the main post office in New York City. Can you imagine life without the post office? It's been a part of American life since 1775, when it was created by the Second Continental Congress. About 563 million pieces of mail are delivered daily, almost half the mail in the world.

That will probably change soon. The U.S. Postal Service plans to close about 3,700 post offices throughout the country in 2012, and may ultimately shut the doors of another 12,000 post offices. The decision to close a post office will be based on how much money that post office makes. Patrick Donahoe, the current head of the Postal Service, also wants to get rid of Saturday delivery, which means that mail will take longer to reach its final destination. He has plans to slash the number of workers from 570,000 to 350,000 by 2015.

Saturday delivery will be handled by private companies such as FedEx and United Parcel Service, and will likely be far more expensive than many people can pay. Because they are private companies, there is no guarantee they will continue to serve



PHOTO: FLICKR/GRAEME POW
DESIGN: CONCEPT: INDYKIDS KID REPORTERS

rural and out-of-the way places if they cannot make money, so many places could lose Saturday, or possibly all, service.

Papanini Hamadou, who currently lives down the street from a post office in the Bronx, NY, told *The Independent*: "Me, I live on this block. It was easy for me. But if they close I have to go to Grand Concourse. I have to take a bus."

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IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a) Egypt ____ | e) Redwood Canopy ____ |
| b) Iraq ____ | f) New York City ____ |
| c) Bangladesh ____ | g) New Zealand ____ |
| d) The Democratic Republic of the Congo ____ | h) Grand Canyon National Park ____ |
| | i) Titan ____ |



Occupy Wall Street Rises from Police Attacks

When a group of people in New York City decided to sit down in a park near Wall Street—home of the world’s major banks—and to stay there day and night, their action inspired people around the country to set up their own “occupy.” The protesters wanted to do something about the growing wealth and greed of one percent of the population at the expense of the other 99 percent. The movement spread to more than 400 occupation sites across the United States—from big urban centers to small cities and towns.

Since they started in September, these peaceful protests have been attacked and driven out by police who sometimes use violence. Scott Olsen, an Iraq war veteran, received a fractured skull when he was hit by a projectile shot at the protesters by police in Oakland, California.

Occupy tents still stand in dozens of cities nationwide. In other cities, protesters occupy public parks during the day, and sleep on sidewalks at night. Many occupy activists continue their work, holding regular meetings, educational events and demonstrations with the slogan “Occupy will never die. Evict us, we multiply!”

In December 2011, occupy activists teamed up with families who had been kicked out of their homes by banks because they could not pay their monthly mortgage fee. The activists occupied some of these empty homes and let families that used to live in them back inside. Tasha, a mother of two kids, told Occupy TVNY, “Some of these apartments be really good. Once you clean it up and fix it up, put a homeless person in there, what’s the problem?”

— By **AMANDA VENDER**



OAKLAND LOCAL

On December 12, 2011, tens of thousands of protesters shut down West Coast ports to cut the profits of the big corporations that run them and to protest the attacks on occupy actions across the country.



JANAYA WILDER

Kid Reporter, Kanoni Wilder, interviewed a mother at the Children’s Day of Action in New York City.

A Children’s Assembly

ON A COLD DECEMBER DAY in New York City, kids and parents gathered in Union Square Park as part of a “Children’s Day of Action in Solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.” Kids painted 5,000 hearts that organizers said represented the 5,000 people arrested since the start of Occupy Wall Street. They later marched to City Hall to deliver the hearts to Mayor Bloomberg.



Kids and parents spoke about police officers acting like bullies toward Occupy Wall Street protesters. Shay, age 9, said, “I don’t want people to get arrested, and I want schools to be better. I want them to stop arresting the 99 percent and start arresting the one percent.”

One boy, Kenny Lazo, age 9, spoke about his father, also named Kenny Lazo, who was beaten to death by police on Long Island, New York in 2008. “No more soccer days, no more playing games, no more picking me up from school,” Kenny told the crowd. He wants justice for what the police officers did to his father.

— By Kid Reporters: **ELIYA AHMAD, IRATI DIEZ, SHAWN GILBERT, JANAYA WILDER, KANONI WILDER, PEDRO LAHOZ WOLFE**



JANAYA WILDER

newsbriefs



FLICKR/NCINDC

U.S. Withdraws from Iraq

Nine years after invading and occupying Iraq, U.S.

military forces officially left the country in December. More than 4,400 U.S. troops died in the war and between 650,000 and one million Iraqis died. The United States still has its largest embassy in the world in Iraq with a \$6 billion budget for 2012 and a staff of 16,000 people.

Shape Up at School!



FLICKR/USDAGOV

A new study from researchers in Australia concludes that school may be the best place to fight childhood obesity. Elizabeth Waters, the study’s lead author, says programs like giving lessons in nutrition and body image, providing healthier school lunches and increasing students’ physical activity are key to getting kids in shape.

Better Schools for the Rich



FLICKR/BRUNO GIRIN

By Kid Reporter ROSE MARSH, age 11 Schools in rich neighborhoods provide higher quality education than those in poor neighborhoods. According to a U.S. Department of Education study released in November 2011, more than 40 percent of schools in poor areas don’t get their fair share of public funding. The study showed big gaps between teacher salaries in poor areas and those in rich areas.



Trails of Bottles



FLICKR/MR. T IN DC

By Kid Reporter KANONI WILDER, age 9 A ban on plastic bottles in the Grand Canyon, which has a big litter problem, was set to take action on January 1, 2012, until the National Park Service Director called it off after a meeting with Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola gives a lot of money to the National Parks Foundation.

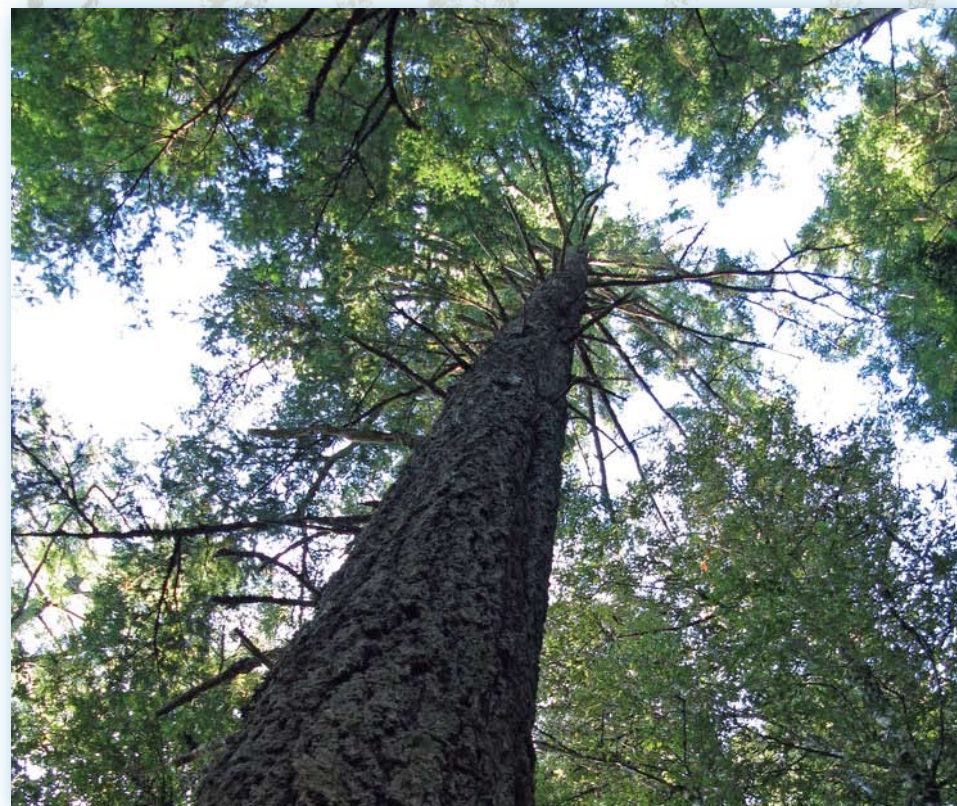
Now the ban may go through since the public complained and wrote a petition in favor of the ban.



THE SECRET OF THE REDWOOD CANOPY

Who knew that, high in the tops of the old-growth redwood trees along the coasts of California and Oregon, a hidden world exists? Until recently, no one—not even scientists. You'll see why if you visit these forests. Looking up, you'll notice long brown trunks (with almost no low branches) and a canopy of green, like the underside of an umbrella. It's beautiful, but you'd probably think, "Not much going on up there."

These trees had everyone fooled. "Up in the redwood canopy, you discover an amazing ecosystem," says Dr. Emily Limm, Director of Science at Save the Redwoods League in California. "Birds land nearby, and everywhere you look is something alive; salamanders, moss, ferns, even huckleberry bushes. The weather is different, too. I've been in hailstorms up top while it's dry below."



What's going on up there? In a truly old-growth redwood forest, a rich layer of organic stuff builds up in the treetops, like a very high second floor. As the original treetops fall off, new trunks grow up like big fingers, and old leaves and twigs pile up amidst the giant trunks and branches. The mass is continuously trapping water and decomposing.

The resulting spongy mats of canopy soil can be the size of a small school bus. People can walk on them (carefully) and munch huckleberries. Earthworms dig through the soil, and other trees take root. A spruce was once spotted growing out of a redwood!

The more scientists explore this treetop world, the more they find. And the more they want to protect it, because most redwoods have already been chopped down, with the rest threatened by global warming.

How global warming threatens the redwoods

Redwood trees take in much of their water not through their roots, but by absorbing moisture from fog. That creates potential problems as climate change causes drier weather along the California coast. Less fog = thirsty, less healthy redwoods.

How does anyone climb a redwood?

Redwoods can grow more than 370 feet high. That's taller than any other tree in the world. It's even taller than the Statue of Liberty, whose torch touches the sky at 305 feet above the ground.

Without equipment, your first step in climbing would have to be a skyscraper-high jump, around 25 stories into the air, just to reach the lowest branch.

Scientists who study old-growth trees have to be trained rope climbers. They learn special techniques to avoid damaging the trees, including securing ropes over branches, suspending their weight in harnesses and wearing soft-soled shoes. It's dangerous work. At such heights, and with all the moss and dead wood, one mistake can send a climber into a fatal tumble.

Recreational climbers tend to stay away from the redwoods. Good thing, because their presence can damage the trees. But in some parks, tourists can take special canopy tours where they ride on zip-lines.



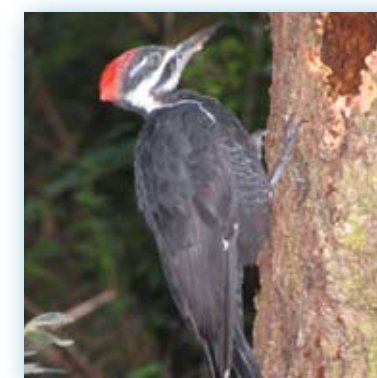
A TREE GROWS IN A TREE: A dogwood tree (left of the researcher) grows in the giant sequoia canopy in California's Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

ANIMALS that live in the canopy

These creatures are known to live, or at least hang out, in the redwood canopy.



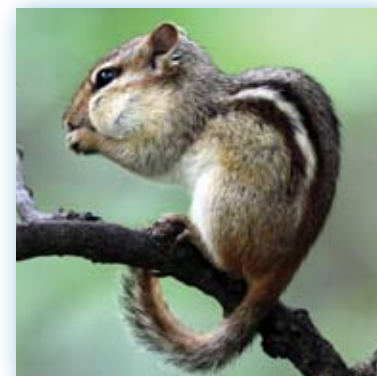
owl (spotted, northern pygmy, and great horned); this is a spotted owl



woodpecker; this is a pileated woodpecker



marbled murrelet (when it's nesting)



chipmunk



squirrel



wandering salamander



copepod (a shrimp-like crustacean)

What's so special about old-growth forests?

To justify logging old-growth forests, some people argue that new trees can be planted in their place. But new growth isn't the same. Here's why:

- **Energy storage.** Big trees store energy that they capture from the sun, as well as organic matter and nutrients (in the canopy, for example). All of this eventually gets recycled back into the ecosystem. Even the moss on old trees help "fix" nitrogen, fertilizing new growth.
- **Standing dead trees.** Called snags, these are the favorite home of owls, woodpeckers and other birds, as well as squirrels, chipmunks, bats and other mammals. The dead wood is easier to dig a hole into, and some animals live in the space between the wood and the bark.
- **Fallen dead trees.** These nourish the soil as they decay, and provide homes for creatures like carpenter ants, centipedes, salamanders and shrews. Some become "nurse logs," meaning that young trees grow on top of them.
- **The canopy.** In an old-growth forest, the canopy is so thick that the trees are practically holding hands. Some animals, such as the wandering salamander, need never come down to earth. It takes a long time to create such a canopy.
- **Complexity.** An old forest is home to a huge variety of plants and animals. Many of these won't survive or return after the area is logged.

What you can do to help old-growth forests

- **Use less paper.** Old-growth forests are still being chopped down for paper products—even toilet paper. Don't grab handfuls of napkins if you don't need them all, and reuse the back side of printed sheets.
- **Ask your parents to buy paper products made from recycled wood.** They cost a little more, but make a big difference.
- **Eat less beef.** Some of it comes from areas where rainforests were cut down to make room for cattle.
- **Write protest letters to companies whose business practices destroy forests.** You can find examples on the website of the Rainforest Action Network, at www.ran.org.

DEFINITIONS:

Canopy: a covering

Old-growth forest: A forest with trees at least hundreds, perhaps thousands of years old. Old-growth forests of trees like redwood, spruce, fir and pine still exist in areas across the United States. The biggest ones are on the West Coast.



By ILONA BRAY | Photo credits: "A Tree Grows in a Tree" – Stephen C. Sillett courtesy of Save the Redwoods League; tree canopy – Peter Kaminski; forest floor – RNHA/RPA National Park Service; owl, woodpecker and murrelet – Redwood National and State Parks; chipmunk – flickr/Dawn Huczek; squirrel – flickr/Reijji; wandering salamander – Gary Nafis and CaliforniaHerps.com; copepod – courtesy of Michael Camann/Humboldt State University

sciencebriefs

Meet Alamosaurus!



FLICKR/JCROACH

By Kid Reporter **ALEXIA ALMONTE**, age 11 Did you know that the Alamosaurus was the biggest dinosaur in North America? It was a dinosaur with a long neck and a long tail. They were almost 23 feet tall and 74 feet long! Paleontologists analyzed huge Alamosaurus fossil bones that were found in New Mexico, and think that they could be the same size as a 70-ton Argentinosaurus, the largest dinosaur found in South America.



What Lurks on Saturn's Moon, Titan?



NASA.GOV

The Cassini mission sent a robotic spacecraft to orbit Saturn and study its planetary system.

By Kid Reporter **ELIYA AHMAD**, age 10 We might not be alone in our solar system. Astronomers think that one of Saturn's moons, Titan, may have life; just a different kind! NASA's Cassini space probe found liquid methane on Titan's surface. It also found that chemicals like acetylene seem to be raining down on the moon's surface, but then disappear. This might hint

at a form of life using the chemical to survive. There is even a large sea called **Kraken Mare**. Is this an occupied moon?



Kraken: Mythical sea creature, thought to be a giant octopus.

Mare: The Latin word for sea.

Wasps: Do I Know You?



COURTESY OF CARE, SMC

By Kid Reporters **JORDAN BABBS** and **KANONI WILDER**, ages 9 If you're a person who remembers faces, you've got company in the animal kingdom, the wasp! According to a University of Michigan study, scientists discovered that queen paper wasps can recognize one another's faces. Researchers believe wasps learned to recognize faces to help keep their colonies organized. Because a wasp colony has many queens, the wasps learn to recognize different faces so they can instantly spot their own queen.



46,000

That's the number of parents of U.S.-born children who were deported from the United States in the first six months of 2011. Source: Democracy Now!

culture&activism

Father Faces Deportation

By Kid Reporter **MAYA DAVIS**, age 14

Since Barack Obama's election, more undocumented immigrants have been deported than under any other president. In 2011, nearly 400,000 people were deported. Sabreena and Sanjana Hussain, ages 13 and 8, have become all too familiar with the deportation process since their father, Taimur Hussain, a native of Bangladesh, was taken into custody in March 2011 by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Taimur's family had no information regarding his whereabouts the day he was detained. Sabreena, an eighth-grade student from Queens, New York, and her sister were at school, but they started to worry when their father didn't return from work in the afternoon. It wasn't until hours later that they learned their father was being held in New Jersey for living in the United States



without legal immigration status.

Mr. Hussain had been working towards becoming a legal resident like his wife and daughters, who are U.S. citizens, and his detention came as a surprise to his family. "We were shocked to find out Dad had been taken," Sabreena told *IndyKids*. The sisters are finding it hard to cope with their father's absence. "It has been difficult to learn in school because I'm always thinking about my dad," Sabreena said.

The Hussain children are working toward getting their father out of detention and back into their lives, but

so far his fate lies in the hands of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



MAYA DAVIS

Sabreena Hussain, age 13, is a U.S. citizen, but her father is in immigration detention and may be deported to Bangladesh. In December, Sabreena spoke at a public event in Queens, NY, about her father's case.

Book Review: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

By Kid Reporter **SHAWN E. GILBERT, JR.**, age 12

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry takes place in Mississippi in 1933. This is during the Jim Crow era when schools were segregated, lynching Black people was common, and there were silly rules, such as a person of color could never suggest that a white person is lying. In this thrilling and astonishing book, Cassie Logan and her brothers—Stacey, Christopher-John and Little Man—encounter racism. For example, the white bus driver, Mr. Grimes, purposely splashes Cassie and her brothers as they walk to school. The Logan children attend a segregated one-room school called Great Faith, where the school year starts a month later than in the white school, Jefferson Davis. Great Faith does not have a school bus because the school cannot afford it.

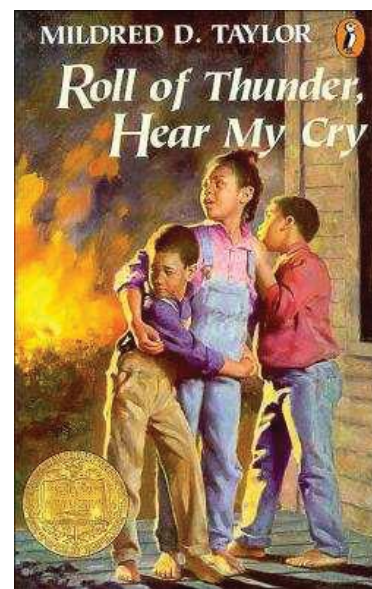


I think that this book is a great way to show the struggle of Black people during the Jim Crow era. The historical fiction book is realistic and straightforward. I have asked

some of my eighth-grade classmates from the East Flatbush Community Research School what they thought of this story.

Donald Berger, age 12, says, "The book is good because it has a lot of action. Even though the book is kind of long, it still has lots of drama." When Mark Eve, 13, was asked what he thought of the book, he said, "The author makes you feel like you are next to the characters."

This book is the best book I have ever read!



PUFFIN GROUP INC.

"Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry", by Mildred D. Taylor.



indykids!
KID REPORTER

Wilton the Worm invites you to join the Kid Reporter Program in 2012!

The Kid Reporter Program trains kids ages 9 to 13 to critically examine media, become engaged with current events as journalists and take part in every step of producing a national grassroots newspaper and website for kids! For more details about the program, visit www.indykids.org. Our next workshop will be held on Saturday, **February 4, 2012** in New York City. To reserve your spot, please **RSVP** to Lisa Goodman at: info@indykids.org.

Why are schools still segregated?



In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Today, U.S. schools are more segregated than they were four decades ago.

Kid Reporter SHEMAR WILSON, age 13, interviewed these people at his school, the East Flatbush Community Research School, in Brooklyn, New York.



When Black people were freed from slavery, they had to be in separate schools and I guess they got used to it being that way.

Tahiem Wolfe, 13



Some white people... don't think that their kids should go to a school that is populated with Blacks.

Sefton Wright, 13



People are comfortable in their neighborhoods with the same race and then that creates segregation.

Ms. Shah, a teacher



Probably because white people still think that Black people should be slaves.

Alisia, 12



Because New York City is one of the most segregated cities in the United States. Until our neighborhoods become more diverse, then the schools will continue to be segregated.

Mr. Manning, a principal

Someday, you could be an **Actor**, just like **Marlo Thomas**

By Kid Reporter
PEDRO LAHOZ WOLFE, age 11

Marlo Thomas is an actor and activist who has starred in many TV shows, movies and plays since the 1960's. In 1972, she released a children's book and television special called *Free to Be You and Me*, that challenged gender stereotypes. Thomas is an active fundraiser for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is currently acting on Broadway in the play, "Relatively Speaking."

What gave you the idea to start the *Free to Be* project?

My niece was five, and I didn't like what she was reading. The prince would come and kiss you and your life would change. I thought, she's got to have a better understanding of what's possible in the world: a girl can be anything she wants, and a boy can be anything he

wants. All girls should know they don't need to get married to be real women!

How did creating *Free to Be* affect you?

I realized that what we were doing, all the writers, was rewriting our own childhoods. What would we have liked to have been told? What did we miss?

What do you think about Occupy Wall Street?

I think it's great. I think the most important thing in this country is to raise our voices and be against what you're against and for what you're for. People went to the streets, that's always the way change happens. It starts from the streets, then it gets into legislation and finally it becomes law. Now people are saying, this is wrong, this is enough. If we stop speaking out against what we think is wrong, then we're not a democracy.



Kid Reporter, Pedro Lahoz Wolfe, age 11, with Marlo Thomas.

SAMUEL LAHOZ

letters

Hello, my name is Emerson. I really enjoyed reading the Occupy Wall Street article. I think it's cool that the people will NOT leave until they get what they want. I am very interested in reading the Hershey's article also. I really think the reporters at IndyKids are great. Keep up the good work!

Emmi, Fifth Grade, Brooklyn, NY

I think that the death penalty was wrong to be put against Troy Davis. Different people have different opinions on what is a serious crime. They had no proof that he killed the police officer. I'm sure Troy Davis got sick of going to court for twenty years. If he did kill Mark McPhail, he knows he was wrong. But, now they're both dead. And I feel bad for Troy Davis if he didn't kill McPhail.

Kanoni, Fifth Grade, Brooklyn, NY

I think that Occupy Wall Street is great. It's great that people are standing up for the fact that there are one percent of people who have 40 percent of the money in the nation. If one percent have 40 percent of the money in the United States, there is not a fair share of money.

Rose, Sixth Grade, Takoma Park, MD



I like the "Occupy Wall Street" article the most. After I read it, I learned a lot about everything that's going on. I also like that it is letting kids know about economic inequality.

Shemar, Eighth Grade, Brooklyn, NY

I read "Corn and Soy Blend Not Enough for Kids in Africa" [November/December 2011 issue] and I thought that it was really sad that they didn't have enough to eat. It's cool how much [IndyKids] adds about everything that happens, good or bad.

Eliya, Fifth Grade, Brooklyn, NY

I love your newspaper. It rocks! I love how it is written by kids. It's way better than the other newspapers! It always tells me interesting things.

Katelyn, Fifth Grade, Vancouver, Canada

I think you paper is skillful, but you need a few things to make it better. Those things are: you need more detail, horoscopes and comics. My favorite article was the one about the riot in England. Next time you publish IndyKids, could you put more information about Canada in it because I'm Canadian.

Sasha, Fifth Grade, Vancouver, Canada

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WRITE TO INDYKIDS!

Send an email to: info@indykids.org, comment online at www.indykids.org, or write to: *IndyKids*, P.O. Box 2281, New York NY 10163



The finished product, minus a slice!

RAD AND RAW RASPBERRY CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

Cake:

- 3 cups of raw walnuts
- 1 cup of pitted Medjool dates
- 1/4 teaspoon of sea salt
- 1/4 cups of cocoa powder

Frosting:

- 2/3 cups of Medjool dates
- 1/3 cup of agave nectar
- 1/4 cup of agave nectar
- 1 medium-sized ripe avocado
- 1/3 cup of cocoa powder
- Raspberries

Instructions:

1. Get a food processor, two plates, and a butter knife.
2. Place the walnuts, salt and cocoa powder in food processor and process until coarsely ground. Be careful not to over-process.
3. Add dates and mix well.
4. Place half the mixture on one plate and the other half on another plate. Pat both into round cake layers and set aside.
5. To make the frosting, place dates and agave nectar in food processor and blend until smooth.
6. Add avocado then cocoa powder and blend until smooth.
7. Ice one cake layer and top with fresh raspberries.
8. Stack the other cake layer on top of raspberries.
9. Ice the top and sides with frosting, and use remaining raspberries to top the cake.
10. Slice and enjoy!

Getting Wild with the Weta Bug!

Wetas are among the biggest insects in the world! Their bodies measure up to four inches, not including their legs. There are five kinds of wetas: tree wetas, tusked wetas, cave wetas, ground wetas and most gross of all, the giant weta, also known as "Wetapunga", meaning lumpy weta in Maori. Did you know that wetas have been around since the time of dinosaurs?

FUN FACTS!

- Wetas live on islands off the coast of New Zealand and they cannot fly.
- However, cave wetas jump up to six feet and can live up to seven years!
- Giant wetas cannot jump because they are too heavy.
- Wetas come out at night and are hunted by another nocturnal creature, the Morepork owl.
- The Maori people are native to New Zealand and also call the giant weta the "god of ugly things."



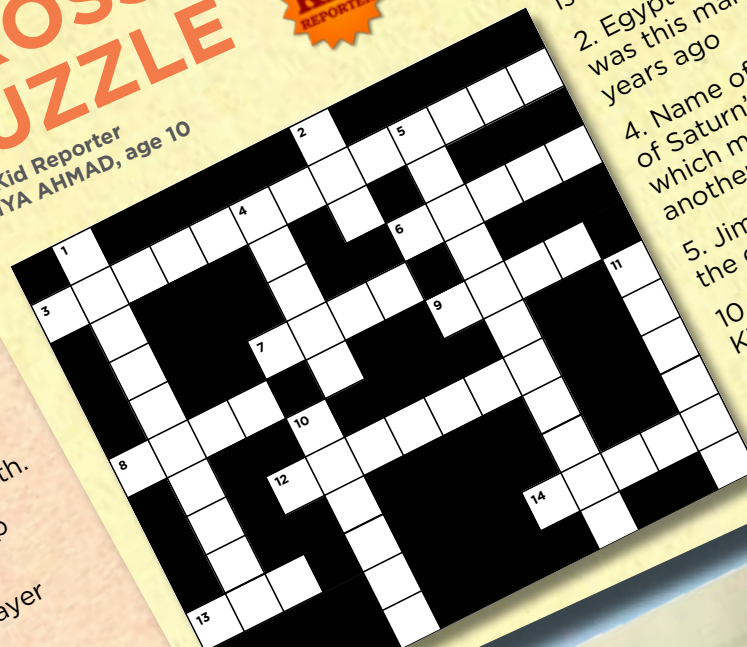
FLICKR/MICHELLE

By Kid Reporter
IRATI EGORHO, age 9



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Kid Reporter
ELIYA AHMAD, age 10



DOWN

1. Redwood canopy is in _____
2. Egypt's revolution was this many years ago _____
4. Name of one of Saturn's moons, which may have another form of life _____
5. Jim Crow was in the era of _____
10. Dr. Martin _____ King Jr.
11. Best place to fight child obesity _____

ACROSS

3. The day of love _____
6. North African country that had a revolution last year _____
7. This animal can recognize faces yon, but not their ban on plastic bottles.
8. This company supports the Grand Canyon, but not their ban on plastic bottles.
9. World's biggest bug _____
12. Name of the kid profiled this issue, from a central African country _____
13. Teachers in poorer neighborhoods generally have lower _____
14. The Democratic Republic of the _____



HOOKS BROS., MEMPHIS, CIRCA 1955 © 1989 DELTA BLUES CORPORATION

1. I was born on May 8, 1911, in the Mississippi Delta town of Hazeltown, Mississippi.
2. I played blues guitar and a little harmonica, and sang.
3. My first album, *King of the Delta Blues Singers*, came out in 1961, almost 25 years after I died.
4. I only recorded 42 songs, and my biggest hit, "Terraplane Blues," sold about 5,000 copies.
5. I died under very mysterious circumstances, and many legends have been told about my last days.
6. I wasn't very well known during my lifetime, but I am now considered one of the best and most influential guitarists ever.